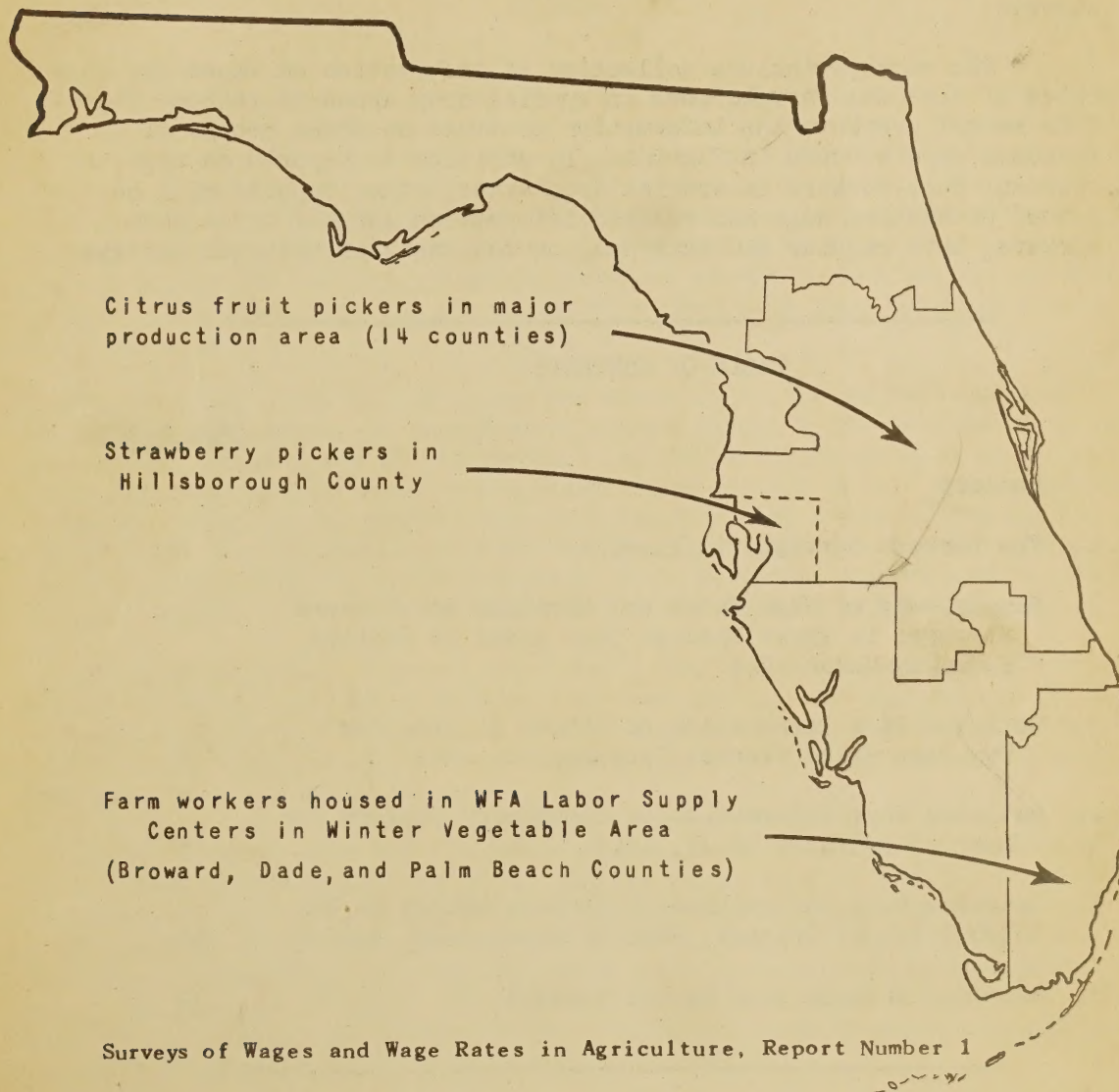


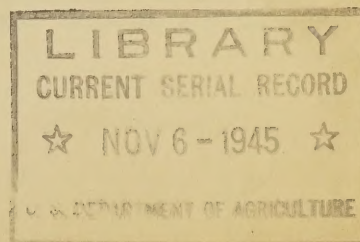
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS IN
SPECIAL CROP AREAS OF FLORIDA, FEB.-MAR., 1945



Washington, D. C.
May 1945



PREFATORY NOTE

This is the first of a series of reports to be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results secured from new surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee, with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are as follows: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the surveys.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of seasonal farm workers in special crop areas of various States. This report presents the information obtained on three groups of seasonal farm workers in Florida. In addition to reports on wages of seasonal farm workers in special crop areas, other reports will be issued presenting wage and related information for all hired farm workers, both regular and seasonal, on the basis of national surveys.

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Prepared by Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood. Special acknowledgement is made to J. C. Townsend, Jr. for directing the field work in the special surveys covered in this report.

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS IN SPECIAL CROP
AREAS OF FLORIDA, FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1945

SUMMARY

Special surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which obtained wage information for fruit and vegetable harvesters in important crop areas in Florida, showed wide variations in hourly earnings of workers in different crops. Strawberry pickers earned only 32 cents an hour on the average, while pickers of citrus fruit averaged \$1.02 per hour. Hourly earnings of vegetable workers housed in selected WFA Labor Supply Centers averaged 57 cents an hour. Wage rates for harvest operations in each of the crops surveyed showed little variation, however, as workers in the same crop and operation were generally paid the same or nearly the same wage rate.

For selected weeks of February and March 1945, the surveys obtained information on wage rates and earnings of approximately 2,000 seasonal farm workers in three special crop areas of the State. Careful sampling methods were applied, to assure that the sample would be representative in each area. These surveys were timed to cover a peak week of citrus picking in the major citrus-producing area of Florida, a peak week of strawberry picking in the principal strawberry producing county of the State, Hillsborough County, and an active week in vegetable harvest operations in the Southern winter vegetable area of the State.

The average number of hours worked per week differed among the three groups of workers surveyed, averaging 31 hours per week for citrus pickers and 37 hours per week for workers in WFA Centers. Strawberry pickers averaged a shorter work-week on the reporting farms, although many of the strawberry pickers may have put in additional work on other farms.

Citrus pickers averaged \$7.70 per day and \$31.70 per week for picking done during the week on the reporting crew. Nearly 11 percent of the citrus pickers earned less than \$4 a day, while about 7 percent earned more than \$12 a day. Daily earnings of strawberry pickers in the Florida area surveyed averaged only \$1.90, and reflected the earnings of teen-age boys and girls who made up 80 percent of the pickers. The workers surveyed in the Labor Supply Centers of southern Florida averaged total earnings of \$4.80 per day and \$22 per week from work mainly in connection with harvesting or packing of vegetables.

Differences in daily and weekly earnings between white and Negro workers surveyed were due more to differences in type of work done and time worked than to differences in wage rates for particular operations.

1. THE WORKERS SURVEYED IN FLORIDA

Citrus fruit pickers.--The survey of wage rates of citrus pickers and related wage information covered approximately 1,000 citrus pickers employed by citrus packing houses in the major citrus area of Florida. In the 14 counties of this area, there are 249 citrus packing houses and cooperatives. During the 1943-44 season, these packing houses handled 94 percent of the State's commercial pack. They shipped over 42 million boxes of citrus fruit during the 12 months. The largest houses shipped more than 1 million boxes each, and the smallest less than 1 thousand. In the latter part of February 1945, when the survey was made, packing houses in this area employed approximately 9,000 citrus pickers.

Probably over 85 percent of the citrus in Florida is picked by laborers employed by packing houses, some of which also can the fruit. The remainder is picked by other laborers working for independent contractors, called "Bird Dogs," for canning companies which do no packing, or for individual growers hiring their own pickers. This survey covered only the citrus pickers employed by packing houses.

Citrus pickers employed by packing houses usually work in crews of from 10 to 25. With a foreman, one or more loaders and truck drivers, a crew may pick citrus in a number of different citrus groves during a given week. The survey obtained wage information on a sample of 61 crews of citrus pickers from 25 packing houses, which cooperated in furnishing records on wage rates, wages, and time worked for a pay-week ending nearest February 22, 1945.

The great majority of the citrus pickers were Negroes who customarily live in Florida. The term "domestic" is used for all workers other than foreign workers imported by WFA and prisoners of war. The composition of the citrus pickers in the survey was as follows:

<u>Type of worker</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent 1/</u>
All types	1,024	100.0
Domestic Negro	727	71.0
Domestic white	170	16.6
Imported foreign workers	109	10.6
Prisoners of War	18	1.8

Only a very small percentage of the pickers were women.

1/ The composition of all pickers employed by packing houses in the major citrus area differs slightly from the composition of workers surveyed because domestic white and imported foreign workers were sampled at a heavier rate than domestic Negro. The estimated percentage distribution of all citrus pickers in the area is as follows: domestic Negro, 77.4 percent; domestic white, 13.4 percent, imported foreign workers, 7.4 percent; prisoners of war, 1.8 percent.

Strawberry pickers.—The survey of wage rates of strawberry pickers covered 406 pickers on a sample of 110 strawberry farms in Hillsborough County. This is the leading strawberry county of the State and the survey covered the week of February 11-17, when the strawberry harvest was at a peak. Most of the strawberry growers hire their own labor. Information on wage rates, wages, and time worked, was obtained from farmers, for the strawberry pickers who worked on their farms.

The contrast is great between the types of workers hired to pick strawberries in Hillsborough County and the other workers surveyed. The strawberry pickers included many children, youths, and women, and very few adult males. For the strawberry pickers whose age and sex was reported the composition was as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Percent</u>
Total	374	100
Under 10	54	14
10 - 13	154	41
14 - 17	98	26
18 and over	68	19

Over half of all the strawberry pickers were children under 14 years of age. Nearly two-thirds of all the pickers were females. The schools in the strawberry area of Hillsborough County customarily have a vacation period during the strawberry harvest, and school children comprised the main labor supply for strawberry growers. Only about a fourth of the strawberry pickers were Negroes.

Vegetable Harvesters and Other Agricultural Workers Housed in WFA Labor

Supply Centers in the Winter Vegetable Area.—The survey of agricultural workers housed in WFA Centers of Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties included a sample of nearly 500 workers during the week of March 4-10, 1945. Since laborers harvesting vegetables in this area are frequently hired in large crews, sometimes through contractors, the farmer often cannot report on the time worked and wages earned by all the different laborers who worked on his farm during a week. Therefore the survey obtained wage information from a sample of individual workers housed in the WFA Labor Supply Centers of the area. These Centers house a substantial proportion of all the seasonal farm laborers in the area—perhaps as much as one-half. Through cooperation of the Office of Labor of the WFA, and the managers of the 6 Centers operating in the area, a record was obtained on time worked, wage rates, and wages earned for a sample of 492 "domestic" workers housed in the Centers. No prisoners of war or imported foreign workers were included in this survey.

In composition, these workers were intermediate between the citrus pickers and the strawberry pickers. Males comprised 54 percent of these workers, as compared with 96 percent of the citrus pickers and 35 percent of the strawberry pickers. White workers made up only 28 percent of the total of approximately 2,500 workers housed in these Centers as compared with 18 percent of the citrus pickers and 74 percent of the strawberry pickers.

2. COMPARISONS OF WAGE RATES AND EARNINGS FOR WORKERS
SURVEYED IN THREE SPECIAL CROP AREAS OF
FLORIDA, FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1945

Wage rates. Most of the harvesters of citrus fruit, strawberries, beans, and celery in Florida are paid by piece rates, which were fairly uniform during the survey week. Ceiling rates for picking citrus in Florida have been set by the WFA. For each type of citrus, the average rate paid the pickers surveyed was very close to the ceiling rate set. As a result of certain upward adjustments which have been permitted under the wage stabilization regulations, the average rate paid per box for several of the types of citrus exceeded slightly the basic ceiling rates set by WFA. The average rate paid per box for picking budded oranges was 15.3 cents as compared with the basic ceiling rate of 15 cents, the rate paid for tangerines was 30.6 cents per box as compared with the ceiling rate of 30 cents, and the average rate paid for grapefruit was 9.4 cents as compared with ceiling rates of 8 and 9 cents (table 1). In contrast, the average rate of 29.3 cents paid for picking seedling oranges was slightly under the ceiling rate of 30 cents.

Table 1. Average wage rates paid citrus fruit pickers, strawberry pickers and packers, and workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, selected areas in Florida, February and March 1945

Crop	: Operation:	: Average:	: Race of	: Week	: Area
	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>rate</u>	<u>worker</u>		
	<u>operation</u>	<u>Cents</u>			
Budded oranges	Picking	15.3	Box	Both races (Mainly Negro) (Pay-week ending nearest Feb. 24)	Major citrus area (14 Counties) (Brevard, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, Volusia)
Seedling oranges	Picking	29.3	Box	" "	"
Tangerines	Picking	30.6	Box	" "	"
Grapefruit	Picking	9.4	Box	" "	"
Strawberries	Picking	5.1	Quart	Both races (Mainly white) (Week of Feb. 11-17)	Hillsborough County
Beans	Picking	55.0	Hamper	Negroes only (Week of Mar. 4-10)	(WFA Labor Supply Centers in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties, Florida.)
Celery	Cutting	9.0	Box	" "	"
	<u>Post-harvest operation</u>				
Beans	Grading & packing	51.2	Hour	White only	"
Celery	Grading & packing	56.8	Hour	"	"
Tomatoes	Grading & packing	85.0	Hour	"	"
Potatoes	Grading & packing	75.0	Hour	"	"
Strawberries	Packing	1.25	Pint	Both races (Mainly white) (Week of Feb. 11-17)	Hillsborough County

Although no specific ceiling rates have been set by the WFA for harvesting strawberries, beans, and celery in Florida, the piece rates paid for these operations generally showed no more variation than for citrus picking for which ceiling rates are set. Almost all the strawberry pickers surveyed received 5 cents a quart for picking strawberries, with enough receiving 6 cents a quart to bring the average rate to 5.1 cents per quart. All bean pickers surveyed received between 50 and 60 cents per hamper, with an average rate of 55 cents.

Most of the post-harvest operations covered in the survey of workers in WFA Centers were paid on a time rather than a piece basis, and more often at an hourly than a daily or weekly rate. There were no consistent race or sex differentials in average hourly rates for particular operations, but a greater proportion of whites worked at the operations for which higher average rates were paid. White workers were paid an average rate of 75 cents an hour for grading and packing potatoes, and an average of 85 cents an hour for grading and packing tomatoes, but too few Negroes reported these operations to obtain averages for them. There was no difference in the average rates paid white and Negro workers for grading celery; both whites and Negroes received an average rate of approximately 56 cents an hour. In general, differences in wage rates for a given harvest or post-harvest operation did not account for much of the difference in daily or weekly wages between Negroes and whites, or between males and females in the three groups of workers surveyed. Type of work done and time worked during the week were more important factors in differentials in wage earnings.

Average time worked.--Average number of hours worked per week differed greatly for citrus pickers, strawberry pickers, and agricultural workers housed in WFA Centers. Workers in WFA Centers averaged the longest work-week, 42 hours per week for whites and 34 hours for Negroes (Table 2). The shorter average of 31 hours per week for citrus pickers may be partially explained by the fact that this average relates only to the time worked on one crew, and some of the pickers may have put in some time on other crews. The very low average number of hours per week reported for strawberry pickers is due to three factors: (1) The age-sex composition of the workers--many of them were too young to work long hours; (2) the short work-day, averaging only 5.8 hours, because picking must be stopped in time for each day's pick to be packed and loaded on cars for market on the same day; and (3) the average reported represents only the average time worked on a single farm during the week--many of these strawberry pickers may have worked on 2 or more farms during the survey week.

Among the workers housed in WFA Centers, the higher average number of hours worked during the week by white workers was due entirely to a higher average number of hours worked per day, as both whites and Negroes averaged 4.6 calendar days of work during the week. White workers averaged 9.2 hours per day worked, while Negro workers averaged only 7.6 hours. Within both races, the average time worked during the week by males aged 18-44 exceeded the average for other workers by more than 12 hours. White males aged 18-44 averaged 54 hours per week. Negro males of the same age averaged 44 hours per week. Females, both white and Negro, averaged about 30 hours per week.

Table 2.-Comparisons of average cash wages and average time worked during specified weeks, citrus pickers, strawberry pickers, and workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, selected areas in Florida, February and March 1945 1/

Type of worker	: Average cash earnings			:Average time worked		
	:	:	:	:Hours:	Hours	: Days
	:	:	:	:per	: per	: per
	: Hourly	: Daily	: Weekly	:day	: week	:week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
Citrus pickers - total <u>2/</u>	1.02	7.70	31.70	7.6	31	4.1
Domestic white	1.03	8.10	36.50	7.9	36	4.5
Domestic Negro	1.05	7.90	30.50	7.6	29	3.8
Imported foreign workers	.96	6.80	34.90	7.1	36	5.1
Prisoners of war	.43	3.40	16.20	8.0	38	4.7
Strawberry pickers - total <u>3/</u>						
(paid by the quart without meals)	.32	1.90	5.70	5.8	18	3.1
Males aged 18-44 <u>4/</u>	.56	3.50	15.00	6.3	27	4.3
Other males	.27	1.60	4.80	5.8	18	3.1
Females	.34	2.00	5.90	5.8	17	3.0
Workers housed in WFA Centers						
White workers - total	.66	6.00	28.00	9.2	42	4.6
Males aged 18-44	.72	6.90	38.90	9.6	54	5.7
Other males	.66	6.00	35.00	9.0	53	5.9
Females	.60	5.40	19.50	9.0	32	3.6
Negro workers - total	.54	4.40	20.00	7.6	34	4.6
Males aged 18-44	.57	5.10	26.30	8.7	44	5.1
Other males	.53	4.20	17.70	7.5	31	4.2
Females	.53	4.00	17.20	7.0	30	4.4

1/ See table 1 for counties included in the selected areas and for week to which wage data relate.

2/ Data relate to earnings and time worked on the reporting crew.

3/ Data relate to earnings and time worked on the reporting farm.

4/ Based on reports for only 6 workers.

Average hourly earnings.--Average hourly earnings afford the best basis of comparing the actual wages resulting from various piece rates, because they are not affected by the length of the work-day or work-week as is the case with daily earnings or weekly earnings. Since hourly earnings of piece workers may vary as a result of the physical capacity of laborers working at the different piece rates, the hourly earnings of males 18-44 are shown separately for strawberry pickers and for white and Negro workers housed in WFA Centers, in order to compare them with the earnings of citrus pickers, almost all of whom were adult males.

The average hourly earnings for citrus pickers, \$1.02, was the highest of any of the groups surveyed. White males aged 18-44 in WFA Centers averaged 72 cents an hour, or 30 percent less than the citrus pickers. Negro males aged 18-44 in WFA Centers averaged 57 cents an hour, and male strawberry pickers of the same age approximately the same. Thus the prevailing wage rates for the farm operations covered in the survey were such as to yield average cash hourly wages for adult males almost twice as great for citrus picking as for strawberry picking and for vegetable operations performed by Negroes housed in WFA Centers.

3. DETAILED WAGE INFORMATION ON CITRUS PICKERS FOR PAY-WEEK ENDED NEAREST FEBRUARY 22, 1945

Average performance of citrus pickers.--Standard field boxes for oranges, grapefruit and tangerines are the same size in Florida, but a box can be filled much more quickly with grapefruit than with the much smaller tangerines. The citrus pickers surveyed averaged 9 boxes of grapefruit per hour, but only 3.4 boxes of tangerines per hour (Table 3). The average performance in picking oranges was intermediate between grapefruit and tangerines. The pickers averaged 7 boxes of budded oranges per hour and 3.7 boxes of seedling oranges per hour. Not enough records were obtained to provide a performance record on picking of canopy type budded oranges.

Table 3.--Average wage rates, performance, and wages of citrus pickers employed by citrus packing houses, major citrus area of Florida, pay-week ended nearest February 22, 1945

Type of citrus picked	Average		Average performance		Average wages	
	: wage : rate	: Unit	: Units : per : hour	: Units : per day : 1/	: Per hour	: Per day
Citrus pickers employed by packing houses - total	-	-	-	-	1.02	7.70
Orange pickers (all)	-	-	-	-	1.04	7.90
Budded oranges	15.3	Box	7.0	53	1.05	8.00
Seedling oranges	24.7 2/	Box	3.7	28	.91	6.90
Grapefruit pickers	9.4	Box	9.0	68	.85	6.40
Tangerine pickers	30.6	Box	3.4	26	1.04	7.90

1/ Hourly figures converted into daily estimates by using 7.56 hours per day, the average hours per day reported for all citrus pickers.

2/ This rate differs from the rate shown in Table 1 since the rates received by a considerable number of workers who did not report on time worked, boxes picked and/or wages earned were excluded from this average.

Average wages for types of citrus.—The average rate of 15.3 cents per box for budded oranges yielded the highest wages, \$1.05 per hour and \$8.00 per day, and the average rate of 30.6 cents per box for tangerines yielded practically the same wages. Rates for seedling oranges and grapefruit resulted in wages considerably lower than those for budded oranges and tangerines. Grapefruit pickers with an average of 9.4 cents per box earned only 85 cents per hour and \$6.40 per day. Pickers of seedling oranges averaged \$6.90 per day.

Distribution of pickers by earnings.—There is a great variation in the wages earned per day or per week by individual workers receiving the same piece rates. Of all the citrus pickers surveyed, who together averaged \$7.70 per day, 6.7 percent averaged \$12 or more per day, while 10.6 percent averaged less than \$4 per day (Table 4). For domestic Negroes, who comprised 71 percent of all pickers surveyed, the variation in wages earned was greater than for the other groups. Seven and one-half percent of the domestic Negroes averaged \$12 or more, with their range extending to over \$20, while 11.4 percent had average daily wages of less than \$4.

Table 4.—Distribution of daily and weekly earnings of citrus pickers employed by citrus packing houses, major citrus area of Florida, pay-week ended nearest February 22, 1945

<u>Earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Domestic white</u>	<u>Domestic Negroes</u>	<u>Imported foreign workers</u>
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Average daily earnings</u>				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$2.00	1.9	.6	2.5	—
2.00 - 3.99	8.7	6.1	8.9	11.9
4.00 - 5.99	21.4	17.8	20.6	32.1
6.00 - 7.99	25.4	20.9	26.1	27.5
8.00 - 9.99	24.1	34.3	22.6	18.4
10.00 - 11.99	11.8	15.9	11.8	5.5
12.00 - 13.99	4.4	3.8	4.6	4.6
14.00 - 15.99	1.2	.6	1.5	—
16.00 and over	1.1	—	1.4	—
<u>Weekly wages earned on reporting crew</u>				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$10	14.7	8.6	17.5	6.5
10 - 19	12.6	8.0	14.7	5.5
20 - 29	19.6	19.0	18.1	30.3
30 - 39	18.4	15.3	18.7	21.1
40 - 49	18.1	27.0	15.8	20.2
50 - 59	10.1	15.9	8.7	10.0
60 - 69	4.8	6.2	4.3	6.4
70 - 79	1.1	—	1.5	—
80 and over	.6	—	.7	—

Similarly with respect to weekly wages, domestic Negroes showed the greatest variation. Among the Negro workers, 17.5 percent earned less than \$10 during the week in contrast to 8.6 percent of the whites and 6.5 percent of the imported foreign workers. But at the other end of the scale, 2.2 percent of the domestic Negroes made \$70 or more during the week, while none of the white or imported foreign workers surveyed reached this figure.

4. DETAILED WAGE INFORMATION ON STRAWBERRY PICKERS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11-17, 1945

Composition of the workers.--Four-fifths of all the strawberry pickers surveyed in Hillsborough County were under 18 years of age, and more than half were under 14 years of age. Among male and female whites and among Negro males, there were more workers in the age group from 10 to 13 years than in any of the other age groups shown in Table 5. Among Negro females, the number of workers was greatest in the age groups from 18 to 44 years. Twenty-three percent of all male workers and 10 percent of all female workers were under 10 years of age; almost all of these were white children.

Table 5.--Distribution of strawberry pickers surveyed by age, sex, and race,
Hillsborough County, Florida, week of February 11-17, 1945

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total - all ages *	374	100	132	100	242	100
Under 10 years	54	14	30	23	24	10
10 - 13	154	41	58	44	96	40
14 - 17	98	26	36	27	62	26
18 - 44	54	15	6	4	48	20
45 - 64	13	4	2	2	11	**
65 and over	1	**	-	-	1	**
White - all ages	276	73	108	82	168	70
Under 10 years	50	13	27	21	23	10
10 - 13	125	33	45	34	80	33
14 - 17	69	18	31	23	38	16
18 - 44	25	7	4	3	21	9
45 - 64	6	2	1	1	5	2
65 and over	1	**	-	-	1	**
Negro - all ages	98	27	24	18	74	30
Under 10 years	4	1	3	2	1	**
10 - 13	29	8	13	10	16	7
14 - 17	29	8	5	4	24	10
18 - 44	29	8	2	1	27	11
45 - 64	7	2	1	1	6	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 32 persons included in survey are not included in this table because of failure to indicate race, sex or age.

** Less than .05 percent.

Although the children were local residents of the County, only 8 percent of those under 18 hired to pick strawberries were related to the farm operator (Table 6). The remaining 92 percent of the group were not working on their parents' farms or on farms of other relatives.

Table 6.--Distribution of strawberry pickers, surveyed under 18 years of age by relationship to farm operator, Hillsborough County, Florida, week of February 11-17, 1945.

Sex and age	Total Percent	Related to operator Percent	Not related to operator Percent
Both sexes - under 18 years	100	8	92
Under 10 years	100	18	82
10 - 13	100	5	95
14 - 17	100	7	93
Males - under 18 years	100	11	89
Under 10 years	100	20	80
10 - 13	100	7	93
14 - 17	100	11	89
Females - under 18 years	100	6	94
Under 10 years	100	15	85
10 - 13	100	4	96
14 - 17	100	5	95

Average wages by age and sex of workers.--Average hourly earnings of the strawberry pickers show a close relationship of wages earned to age and sex of the picker. Boys under 10 years of age averaged 20 cents an hour, with each successive age group having higher hourly earnings up to the age group 18-44 (Table 7). However, the number of male pickers 18 years of age and over was so small that averages for this group are not reliable. Girls under 10 years of age earned only 17 cents an hour, on the average, with the average hourly earnings increasing progressively for each older group. Between the ages of 10 and 17, girls received higher average wages than boys on an hourly, daily, and weekly basis.

There were no important differences among the various age groups in average time worked for both sexes combined. Average time worked per day was 5.8 hours. Only the workers aged 45 and over departed appreciably from this average with a slightly longer work-day. Similarly, each age group averaged about 3.1 days of work and 17 to 19 hours of work on the reporting farm during the survey week. However, among workers aged 18-44, the female workers dropped below the average in time worked per week, while the very few male workers of these ages substantially exceeded the average for other workers.

Table 7.--Average cash wages and time worked by strawberry pickers paid by the quart without board, by age and sex, Hillsborough County, Florida, week of February 11-17, 1945

Age and sex	Average cash wages			Average time worked		
	:	:	:	Hours	Hours	Days
	: Hourly	: Daily	: Weekly	: per	: per	: per
	:	:	:	: day	: week	: week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Hours	Hours	Days
Total	.32	1.90	5.70	5.8	18	3.1
Under 10 years	.19	1.10	3.20	5.8	17	3.0
10 - 13	.27	1.60	4.80	5.8	18	3.0
14 - 17	.36	2.10	6.50	5.7	18	3.2
18 - 44	.45	2.60	7.80	5.8	17	3.0
45 and over	.46	2.80	8.60	6.1	19	3.1
Male	.29	1.70	5.30	5.8	18	3.1
Under 10 years	.20	1.10	3.20	5.6	16.	2.9
10 - 13	.24	1.40	4.40	5.8	18	3.1
14 - 17	.34	2.00	6.20	5.9	18	3.1
18 and over	.51	3.20	11.70	6.2	23	3.7
Females	.34	2.00	5.90	5.8	17	3.0
Under 10 years	.17	1.00	3.20	6.0	19	3.1
10 - 13	.29	1.70	5.00	5.8	18	3.0
14 - 17	.37	2.10	6.70	5.6	18	3.2
18 - 44	.43	2.40	6.80	5.6	16	2.8
45 and over	.48	3.00	9.60	6.2	20	3.2

5. DETAILED WAGE INFORMATION ON WORKERS HOUSED IN WFA LABOR SUPPLY CENTERS, WEEK OF MARCH 4-10, 1945

Composition of the workers.--Among both Negroes and whites, males and females the largest numbers of workers were in the group 18 to 44 years of age. Workers in this group made up from 56 percent of the workers surveyed in the case of white males to 74 percent in the case of Negro females (Table 8). Only 7 percent of the Negro workers surveyed were under 14 years of age, and none of the white workers were younger than 14 years old. Thirty-five percent of the white workers and 15 percent of the Negro workers were 45 years old or over. Most of the workers were living in family groups in the camp. Among the white workers, single individuals not living in a family group made up only 19.5 percent of the workers, while among the Negro workers, the corresponding percentage was 21.7.

Table 8.--Distribution of workers surveyed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, by age and sex, for whites and Negroes, Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, week of March 4-10, 1945

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White - all ages	148	100	87	100	61	100
Under 14	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 - 17	9	6	4	5	5	8
18 - 44	87	59	49	56	38	63
45 - 64	43	29	27	31	16	26
65 and over	9	6	7	8	2	3
Negro - all ages	339	100	177	100	162	100
Under 14	25	7	10	6	15	9
14 - 17	30	9	19	11	11	7
18 - 44	233	69	112	63	121	74
45 - 64	44	13	30	17	14	9
65 and over	7	2	6	3	1	1

Note: 5 persons included in the survey are excluded from this table because they failed to indicate age.

Earnings from field work and other agricultural work.--Approximately 88 percent of the Negro workers housed in WFA Centers in Southeast Florida were primarily employed in field work during the week as contrasted with only about 16 percent of the white workers. The rest of the workers were primarily employed in packing, grading, sorting or other operations involved in preparing vegetables for market. White workers averaged approximately the same hourly earnings for both field and other work, 67 and 65 cents an hour (Table 9). Because more white females were among those engaged in packing, grading, etc. and because these females averaged only 31 hours of work a week, the average weekly wages of \$25.80 for white workers employed in work other than field work fell considerably under that of \$39.80 for white workers employed in field work.

Among Negroes, however, there was a greater proportion of females in the field workers than in the group doing other agricultural work. Hourly earnings averaged 54 cents for Negroes doing field work and 63 cents for those doing other work. Since the Negro field workers averaged only 33 hours worked per week and the other Negro workers averaged 44 hours per week, the average weekly wage of \$19.40 for Negro field workers was considerably below the average of \$24.60 for other Negro workers.

Table 9.--Average cash wages and time worked, by race and sex of worker, for workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties Florida, week of March 4-10, 1945

Race and sex of worker and type of work	Average cash earnings			Average time worked		
				:Hours	:Hours	: Days
	:Per hour	: Per day	: Per week	:per day	:per week	:per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>White workers</u>						
All agricultural work -						
total	.66	6.00	28.00	9.2	42	4.6
Males aged 18-44	.72	6.90	38.90	9.6	54	5.7
Other males	.66	6.00	35.00	9.0	53	5.9
Females	.60	5.40	19.50	9.0	32	3.6
Field work - total	.67	6.80	39.80	10.1	60	5.9
Males aged 18-44	.67	6.80	40.20	10.1	60	6.0
Other males	-	-	-	-	-	-
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other agricultural work ^{1/}						
total	.65	5.90	25.80	9.0	40	4.4
Males aged 18-44	.75	6.90	38.20	9.3	51	5.5
Other males	.65	5.80	33.20	9.0	51	5.7
Females	.60	6.10	18.90	9.0	31	3.5
<u>Negro workers</u>						
All agricultural work -						
total	.54	4.40	20.00	7.6	34	4.6
Males aged 18-44	.57	5.10	26.30	8.7	44	5.1
Other males	.53	4.20	17.70	7.5	31	4.2
Females	.53	4.00	17.20	7.0	30	4.4
Field work - total	.54	4.30	19.40	7.4	33	4.6
Males aged 18-44	.55	4.90	26.10	8.4	44	5.3
Other males	.53	4.10	17.30	7.4	30	4.2
Females	.53	3.90	16.70	6.9	30	4.3
Other agricultural work ^{2/}						
total	.63	5.20	24.60	10.0	44	4.7
Males aged 18-44	.64	6.00	26.90	10.0	44	4.5
Other males	-	-	-	-	-	-
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{1/} Other agricultural work for whites included preharvest operations such as planting and spraying of crops and post-harvest operations of grading, packing, sorting, canning and preparation of crops for market.

^{2/} The only type of work done by Negro workers other than harvest operations was packing of vegetables.

Earnings from different types of field work.--White workers had average hourly earnings of 65 cents, both for harvest operations on 7 vegetables (beans, potatoes, celery, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, peppers) and for other field work (mainly cultivating or weeding vegetables). Negro workers averaged 56 cents an hour for the former and 53 cents an hour for the latter (Table 10). Since the average hours worked per day by Negroes was nearly 2 hours shorter in the harvest operations than in the other field work, the average daily wages for the harvest operations were a dollar less, \$4.10 as compared with \$5.10.

Males exceeded females of the same race in average hourly and daily earnings for each of the operations shown in table 10, with one minor exception. The average difference in hourly earnings between males and females was a little greater (9 cents) among white workers than among Negro workers (5 cents for harvest operations and 7 cents for other field work).

Distribution of workers by earnings.--In average daily and weekly earnings for the week of March 4-10, males generally exceeded females and whites exceeded Negroes among workers in the Centers:

	<u>Average daily earnings</u>	<u>Average weekly earnings</u>
Male white	\$6.50	\$38.00
Male Negro	4.80	22.80
Female white	5.40	19.50
Female Negro	4.00	17.20

Among white males, 88 percent averaged \$5 per day or more. Corresponding percentages for the other groups were 60 percent for Negro males, 58 percent for white females and only 22 percent for Negro females. Within each race-sex group there was variation about the average, although not such great variation as for the citrus pickers. Seventy-one percent of the white males had average daily earnings between \$5 and \$8, while 73 percent of the Negro males averaged between \$3 and \$6. Among females, 65 percent of the whites averaged between \$4 and \$7, while 74 percent of the Negroes averaged between \$2 and \$5.

The differentials were similar with respect to weekly earnings. Eighty-nine percent of the white males earned \$25 or more, as contrasted with 58 percent of the white females, 45 percent of the Negro males, and only 11 percent of the Negro females. The \$5 interval containing the greatest percentage of workers was \$30-34 for white males, \$20-24 for white females and Negro males, and \$15-19 for Negro females.

Wages per family.--The Negroes in the WFA Centers averaged just over 2 workers per family group and the whites just under 2 workers (2.1 and 1.8 workers per family), actually employed during the survey week. In Negro families, both workers in a 2-worker family averaged as much as the only worker in a 1-worker family, \$22 per week. In white families, the workers in a 2-worker family averaged only about three-fourths as much as the only worker in a 1-worker family, \$32 compared with \$41.

Table 10.--Average cash wages and hours worked per day, for the major harvest operation of 7 vegetables and for other field work by race and sex of worker, for workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, week of March 4-10, 1945

Crop, operation, and sex of worker	White workers			Negro workers		
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	Average	Average	Average:	Average	Average	Average
	hourly	daily	hours	hourly	daily	hours
	earnings	earnings	per day	earnings	earnings	per day
	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Number
<u>Major harvest operation</u>						
<u>on 7 vegetables 1/</u>						
Total workers	.65	6.50	9.9	.56	4.10	6.8
Males	-	-	-	.59	4.40	6.9
Females	-	-	-	.54	3.90	6.7
Picking beans - total	-	-	-	.55	3.70	6.6
Males	-	-	-	.58	3.90	6.6
Females	-	-	-	.54	3.60	6.7
Harvesting celery - total	-	-	-	-	5.60	-
Males	-	-	-	-	6.00	-
Females	-	-	-	-	5.20	-
<u>Field work other than</u>						
<u>harvest operation</u>						
Total workers	.65	6.00	9.2	.53	5.10	9.6
Males	.69	6.50	9.3	.54	5.30	9.7
Females	.60	5.40	9.0	.47	4.40	9.1
Cultivating or weeding						
Beans - total	.56	4.30	7.6	.47	4.50	9.3
Males	.61	4.90	8.0	.48	4.60	9.3
Females	.51	3.70	7.2	-	-	-
Cultivating celery -						
total	.59	6.30	10.3	-	5.30	-
Males	.60	6.50	10.0	-	5.80	-
Females	.57	6.10	10.6	-	4.50	-
Packing potatoes -						
total	.65	6.50	10.0	-	-	-
Males	.67	6.50	9.6	-	-	-
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grading and packing						
tomatoes - total	.75	7.20	9.6	-	-	-
Males	.74	7.40	9.9	-	-	-
Females	.75	7.00	9.3	-	-	-

1/ Picking beans, harvesting celery, picking potatoes, picking tomatoes, cutting cabbage, cutting lettuce, picking peppers.

Table 11.-Distribution of workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers by daily and weekly earnings from agricultural work, by sex and race, Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, week of March 4-10, 1945

Earnings	Males		Females	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
<u>Average daily earnings</u>				
Total	100	100	100	100
Less than \$2.00	2	1	-	2
\$2.00 - 2.99	2	6	3	16
3.00 - 3.99	2	15	7	32
4.00 - 4.99	6	28	33	28
5.00 - 5.99	32	30	20	14
6.00 - 6.99	19	13	12	4
7.00 - 7.99	20	4	22	4
8.00 - 8.99	7	-	3	1
9.00 and over	10	3	-	-
<u>Weekly earnings</u>				
Total	100	100	100	100
Less than \$10	2	8	-	13
\$10 - 14	2	11	5	18
15 - 19	1	10	7	31
20 - 24	6	26	30	27
25 - 29	5	18	12	5
30 - 34	27	16	17	5
35 - 39	19	7	12	-
40 - 44	11	2	3	1
45 - 49	7	1	7	-
50 and over	20	1	8	-

The more workers there were in the family, the smaller were the weekly wages per worker for families with 2, 3, and 4 workers. However, total wages per family increased with the number of workers to \$89 for white families with 3 workers, and to \$50 and \$63 for Negro families with 3 and 4 workers, respectively.

Table 12.-Average weekly cash wages per family and per worker, by number of workers in family, by race, for workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers, Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, week of March 4-10, 1945

Number of workers in family	Wages per family		Wages per worker	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>All numbers</u>				
1 worker	41	22	41	22
2 workers	64	44	32	22
3 workers	89	50	30	17
4 workers	-	63	-	16

6. SAMPLING METHODS USED IN THE SURVEYS

Survey of citrus fruit pickers.—The survey of citrus pickers covered pickers employed by packing houses in 14 contiguous counties, which comprise the major citrus producing area of the State. The counties, the number of packing houses in each, and the total boxes of citrus shipped during the 1943-44 season are shown below as reported by the Citrus Inspection Bureau.

<u>Counties</u>	<u>Number of Packing Houses</u>	<u>Total boxes (000)</u>
Total, 14 counties	249	41,849
Brevard	14	1,603
Highlands	9	1,580
Hillsborough	13	1,211
Indian River	10	1,385
Lake	33	4,319
Marion	15	1,085
Orange	43	9,071
Osceola	2	279
Pasco	5	567
Pinellas	14	1,131
Polk	56	15,353
St. Lucie	10	1,551
Seminole	9	1,669
Volusia	16	1,045

For sampling purposes, all packing houses in these counties were stratified on the basis of the total boxes shipped for the 1943-44 season, the percentage of boxes shipped, and whether or not they were located within the storm area. No wage adjustments are taking place in this area. Twenty-eight packing houses were then drawn for the sample.

For each packing house selected, an alternate was named for use in case the house originally selected was not operating or refused to give information. Information was not obtained from either the original or the alternate in two cases. In only one instance did the house originally selected refuse to give information.

From the group of smaller packing houses included the sample records were obtained for all pickers working during the specified week. For the largest packing houses, 2 foremen were selected by an objective procedure from a list of all foremen, and records were obtained for all pickers under each of the selected foremen.

Survey of strawberry pickers.--A list was compiled of strawberry growers in the most important section of Hillsborough county in strawberry production (the Plant City Area) from information made available by the AAA office. A sample of 110 strawberry farms was drawn by taking every 5th name on the list of strawberry growers after they had been stratified according to their acreage in strawberries. Each farm in the sample was visited by a field enumerator, and records on wage information were obtained from the farmer for all workers hired on his farm during the week of February 11-17.

Survey of workers housed in WFA Labor Supply Centers.--Each WFA Labor Supply Center surveyed has a card for each family group and for each "single" worker (that is, workers not living in a family group). The sample of workers for whom wage data relating to the week of March 4-10, 1945 were obtained was drawn by taking every nth card for single agricultural workers and every nth card for families of agricultural workers. (Managers and other WFA personnel living in the Centers were excluded from the sample.) The sampling rates used were as follows:

Labor Supply Center	County	Race of workers	Sampling rate	
			Families	Single
Canal Point	Palm Beach	Negro	every 5th	every 2nd
Everglades	Palm Beach	Negro	every 5th	every 2nd
Okeechobee	Palm Beach	Negro	every 10th	every 4th
Osceola	Palm Beach	White	every 5th	every 2nd
Pompano	Broward	Negro	every 5th	every 2nd
Redlands	Dade	White	every 5th	every 2nd

For each family in the sample, information was obtained for one of the family group who did work for wages during the survey week. For "single" worker in the sample, similar information was obtained. Members of the staff of the Labor Supply Centers interviewed the workers to obtain the information.